

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Section
5 2-3.163 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.163 new)

7 Sec. 2-3.163. Attendance Commission.

8 (a) The Attendance Commission is created within the State
9 Board of Education to study the issue of chronic absenteeism in
10 this State and make recommendations for strategies to prevent
11 chronic absenteeism. The Commission shall consist of all of the
12 following members:

13 (1) The Director of the Department of Children and
14 Family Services or his or her designee.

15 (2) The Chairperson of the State Board of Education or
16 his or her designee.

17 (3) The Chairperson of the Board of Higher Education or
18 his or her designee.

19 (4) The Secretary of the Department of Human Services
20 or his or her designee.

21 (5) The Director of the Department of Public Health or
22 his or her designee.

23 (6) The Chairperson of the Illinois Community College

1 Board or his or her designee.

2 (7) The Chairperson of the State Charter School
3 Commission or his or her designee.

4 (8) An individual that deals with children's
5 disabilities, impairments, and social emotional issues,
6 appointed by the State Superintendent of Education.

7 (9) One member from each of the following
8 organizations, appointed by the State Superintendent of
9 Education:

10 (A) A non-profit organization that advocates for
11 students in temporary living situations.

12 (B) An Illinois-focused, non-profit organization
13 that advocates for the well-being of all children and
14 families in this State.

15 (C) An Illinois non-profit, anti-crime
16 organization of law enforcement that researches and
17 recommends early learning and youth development
18 strategies to reduce crime.

19 (D) An Illinois non-profit organization that
20 conducts community-organizing around family issues.

21 (E) A statewide professional teachers'
22 organization.

23 (F) A different statewide professional teachers'
24 organization.

25 (G) A professional teachers' organization in a
26 city having a population exceeding 500,000.

1 (H) An association representing school
2 administrators.

3 (I) An association representing school board
4 members.

5 (J) An association representing school principals.

6 (K) An association representing regional
7 superintendents of schools.

8 (L) An association representing parents.

9 (M) An association representing high school
10 districts.

11 (N) An association representing large unit
12 districts.

13 (O) An organization that advocates for healthier
14 school environments in Illinois.

15 (P) An organization that advocates for the health
16 and safety of Illinois youth and families by providing
17 capacity building services.

18 (Q) A statewide association of local philanthropic
19 organizations that advocates for effective
20 educational, health, and human service policies to
21 improve this State's communities.

22 (R) A statewide organization that advocates for
23 partnerships among schools, families, and the
24 community that provide access to support and remove
25 barriers to learning and development, using schools as
26 hubs.

1 (S) An organization representing statewide
2 programs actively involved in truancy intervention.

3 Attendance Commission members shall serve without
4 compensation but shall be reimbursed for their travel expenses
5 from appropriations to the State Board of Education available
6 for that purpose and subject to the rules of the appropriate
7 travel control board.

8 (b) The Attendance Commission shall meet initially at the
9 call of the State Superintendent of Education. The members
10 shall elect a chairperson at their initial meeting. Thereafter,
11 the Attendance Commission shall meet at the call of the
12 chairperson. The Attendance Commission shall hold hearings on a
13 periodic basis to receive testimony from the public regarding
14 attendance.

15 (c) The Attendance Commission shall identify strategies,
16 mechanisms, and approaches to help parents, educators,
17 principals, superintendents, and the State Board of Education
18 address and prevent chronic absenteeism and shall recommend to
19 the General Assembly and State Board of Education:

20 (1) a standard for attendance and chronic absenteeism,
21 defining attendance as a calculation of standard clock
22 hours in a day that equal a full day based on instructional
23 minutes for both a half day and a full day per learning
24 environment;

25 (2) mechanisms to improve data systems to monitor and
26 track chronic absenteeism across this State in a way that

1 identifies trends from prekindergarten through grade 12
2 and allows the identification of students who need
3 individualized chronic absenteeism prevention plans;

4 (3) mechanisms for reporting and accountability for
5 schools and districts across this State, including
6 creating multiple measure indexes for reporting;

7 (4) best practices for utilizing attendance and
8 chronic absenteeism data to create multi-tiered systems of
9 support and prevention that will result in students being
10 ready for college and career; and

11 (5) new initiatives and responses to ongoing
12 challenges presented by chronic absenteeism.

13 (d) The State Board of Education shall provide
14 administrative support to the Commission. The Attendance
15 Commission shall submit an annual report to the General
16 Assembly and the State Board of Education no later than
17 December 15 of each year.

18 (e) The Attendance Commission is abolished and this Section
19 is repealed on December 16, 2020.

20 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
21 becoming law.